

7.10 Bluefish

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM 1b. COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT OF BLUEFISH

Option 1: Status quo

7.10.2 Commercial: A total allowable harvest of Bluefish will be established annually, and shall be that amount allocated to the State of Rhode Island by the Regional Fishery Management Councils and/or the ASMFC.

(A) Seasons and allocations:

(1) Spring sub-period (January 1 through June 30 annually): 50% of the annual quota shall be available during this sub-period.

(2) Summer-Fall sub-period (July 1 through December 31 annually): 50% of the annual quota shall be available during this sub-period.

(B) When 50% of any seasonal sub-period quota is reached, DFW will determine if a possession limit of between 200 - 10,000 pounds should be established depending upon the time remaining in the quota period and the current catch rate.

Option 2: Remove seasons and adopt year round possession limit to account for 30% decrease in quota in 2015 (Note: The DFW may adjust these numbers moderately based on additional analysis)

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(A) Seasons, ~~and~~ allocations, ~~and~~ possession limits:

(1) ~~Spring sub-period (January 1 through June 30 annually)~~: **100%** of the annual quota shall be available ~~during this sub-period~~ **at a possession limit of 3,500 pounds per vessel per calendar week. The calendar week period shall begin on Sunday at 12:00 AM and ends on the following Saturday at 11:59 PM.**

~~(2) Summer-Fall sub-period (July 1 through December 31 annually): 50% of the annual quota shall be available during this sub-period.~~

~~(B) When 50% of any seasonal sub-period quota is reached, DFW will determine if a possession limit of between 200 - 10,000 pounds should be established depending upon the time remaining in the quota period and the current catch rate.~~